I REALLY DON'T KNOW...
HMM
...IF THIS IS RIGHT.

HEY! IF WE CAME ALL THE WAY OUT HERE...
...AND THE ORB IS REALLY INSIDE THE NAKDONG RIVER, YOU'RE DOOMED, YOU KNOW THAT?

...!
CAN'T YOU TRACK IT WITH THAT WATER DROPLET THING YOU DO?
I NEED TO KNOW THE WAVELENGTHS TO DO THAT.
THE DRAGON IS DEAD, SO HIS WAVELENGTHS ARE PROBABLY GONE, TOO...

I TOLD YOU THAT YOU CAN STAY

BACK AND KEEP SEARCHING THE RIVER IF YOU'RE NOT CONVINCED.
GRRR
DIDN'T I TELL YOU THAT I LOOKED UNDER ALL FOUR GATES AND FOUND NOTHING?

BARI, ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THIS?
DO YOU REALLY THINK THAT HUMAN MADE IT OUT OF THE WATER WITH

THE ORB WITHOUT DYING?

ANY HUMAN THAT LIVED IN THE DRAGON PALACE MUST HAVE BEEN ESPECIALLY CARED FOR BY THE DRAGON.

IF THE DRAGON PROTECTED THOSE HUMANS WITH HIS LIFE, DON'T YOU THINK HE WOULD HAVE PREPARED AN EMERGENCY PLAN FOR THEM?

THAT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE! HOW WOULD A DRAGON

PROTECT HUMANS OUTSIDE OF THE DRAGON PALACE?
...
AND IF HE COULD DO THAT, WHY WOULD THE NAKDONG RIVER DRAGON GIVE UP HIS LIFE TO PROTECT THEM?
HE WAS HOLDING THE MAGICAL ORB, RIGHT?
WHAT?

THAT HUMAN WAS HOLDING THE ORB WHEN HE RAN AWAY.
WHAT IF THAT'S WHY HE DIDN'T DIE AS SOON AS HE LEFT THE PALACE?

TONGUE IS DANGEROUS ENOUGH TO HURT AN IMOOGI...
...BUT WHAT IF ITS ORB IS THE OPPOSITE, AND IT CAN ACTUALLY PROTECT OTHERS...?
HEY! DO YOU THINK THAT MAKES ANY SENSE AT ATLL?
BUT MIRI, YOU'RE OUTSIDE OF THE WATER WITH US. DOESN'T THAT MEAN YOU AGREE?

...

IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE...
...BUT SINCE LORD YISHIMI IS OUTSIDE OF THE WATER...

I FIGURED THERE MIGHT BE SOMETHING OUT HERE...

FINE, LET'S SAY THAT THE HUMAN BETRAYED THE DRAGON AND ESCAPED WITH THE ORB,
LIKE YOU GUYS THINK.
THEN IT'S OBVIOUS WHERE HE TOOK IT.
HE PROBABLY TOOK IT BACK TO HIS FAMILY HOME

OR SOLD IT OFF SOMEWHERE...

IT'S PROBABLY THE FORMER.
IF HE ENTERED THE DRAGON PALACE BECAUSE HE FELL INTO THE NAKDONG RIVER, HE MUST HAVE LIVED NEARBY.
ONCE HIS FAMILY POSSESSED THE DRAGON'S ORB, THEY PROBABLY STARTED REACHING WILD SUCCESS.

THE NAKDONG RIVER HAS ANDONG,

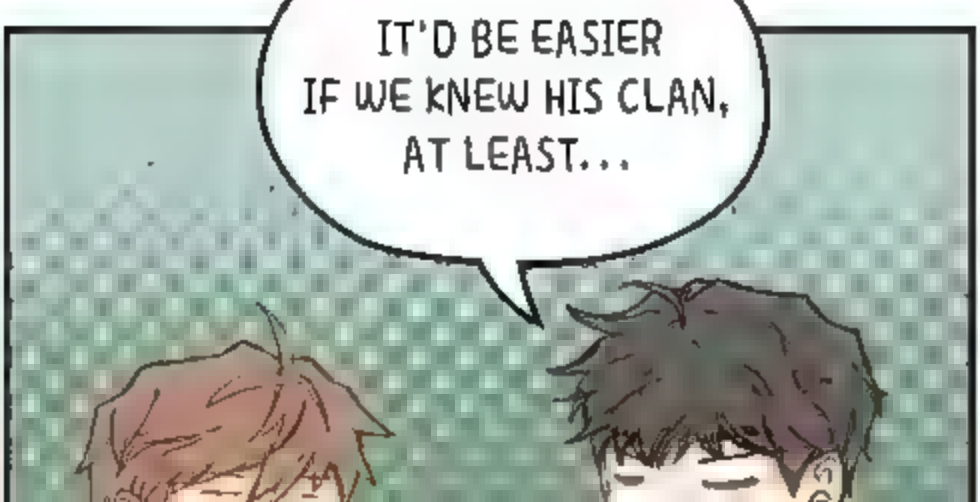
A MAJOR CITY, ON ITS LEFT, AND HAMYANG COUNTY ON ITS RIGHTS.

I HEARD THERE ARE A LOT OF SUCCESSFUL PEOPLE WHO COME FROM THESE REGIONS.

SHOULD WE LOOK THERE FIRST?

DO WE NOT KNOW THIS GUY'S FIRST OR LAST NAME?

IT'D BE EASIER IF WE KNEW HIS CLAN, AT LEAST...



YOU'RE RIGHT.
MAYBE YOU SHOULD
GO FIND OUT.

LET'S LOOK AT OLD, WEALTHY FAMILIES FROM HAMYANG OR ANDONG...
TAP
TAP
...AND PRIORITIZE THE ONES THAT STILL HAVE A SHRINE IN THEIR ESTATES.

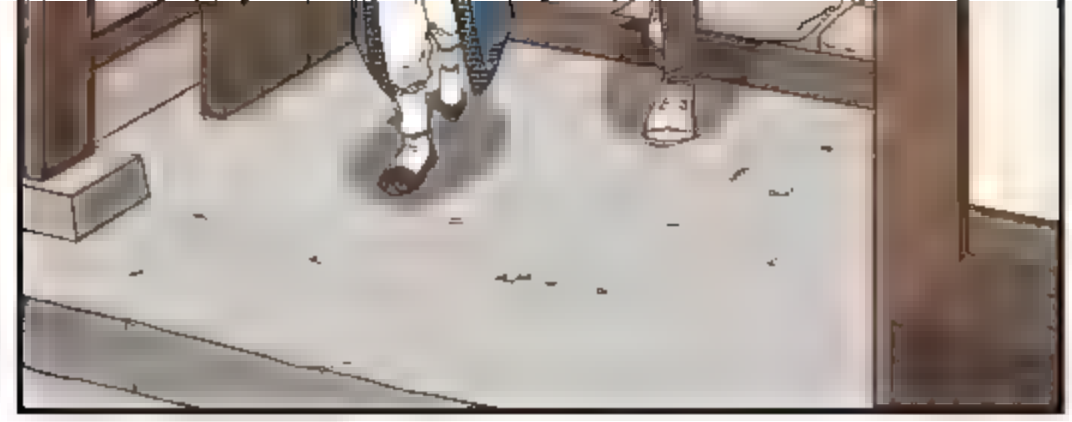
SHOULD WE GO HERE FIRST?

How to become

A DRAGON

- EPISODE 148 -

HMM...
IF THE MAIN GATE TO THE HOUSE IS THIS BIG,
THIS HOUSEHOLD MUST HAVE BEEN PRETTY WEALTHY.



ALRIGHT, LET'S GO TO THE SHRINE FIRST!
IT'LL PROBABLY BE IN THE DEEPEST PART OF THE HOUSE.
HEY, WAIT.
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
BUT THE SHRINE--

BOOM
NO ENTRY

--IS PROBABLY CLOSED TO VISITORS.
...
THEY WOULDN'T JUST LET ANYONE INTO A SHRINE WHERE THEY HONOR THEIR ANCESTORS.
YEAH, RIGHT. DO THEY THINK A SIGN LIKE THIS CAN STOP ME?

HOLD ON, LET'S ASK THE GROUNDSKEEPER FIRST.
LEMME GO.

UM...
I DON'T THINK THERE'S ANYTHING HERE.

EVEN IF ITS OWNER IS DEAD, I CAN'T FEEL THE ORB.
THERE'S NO SCENT, ENERGY...
...NO SIGNS OF ITS PRESENCE.

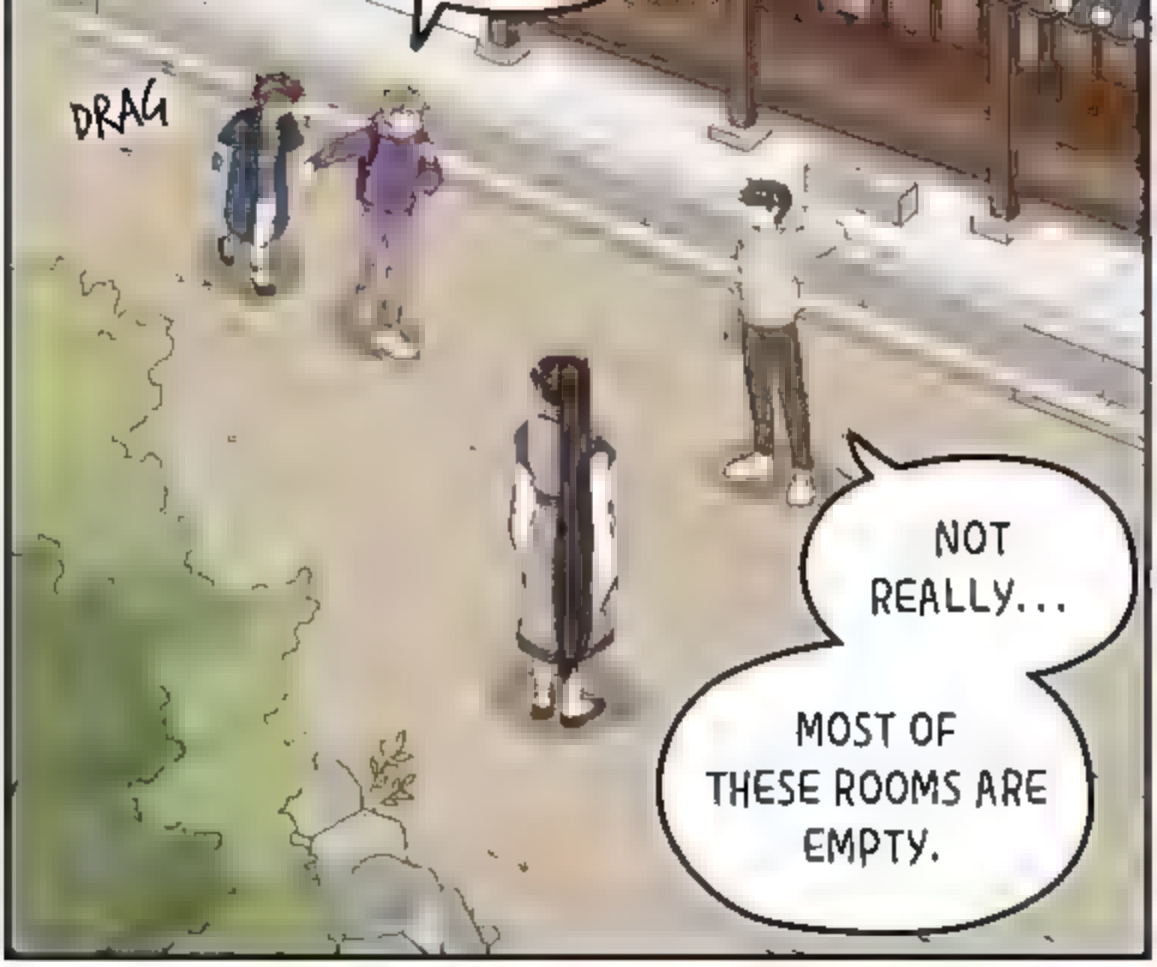
I WON'T BELIEVE THAT UNTIL I SEE IT WITH MY OWN EYES!
FLING

AAAH!!

IF IT'S NOT HERE, LET'S GO TO ANOTHER HOUSE.
IF IT'S NOT IN HAMYANG, LET'S SEARCH ALL OF ANDONG!!
TURN
TURN
I'M SORRY, I'M SORRY...

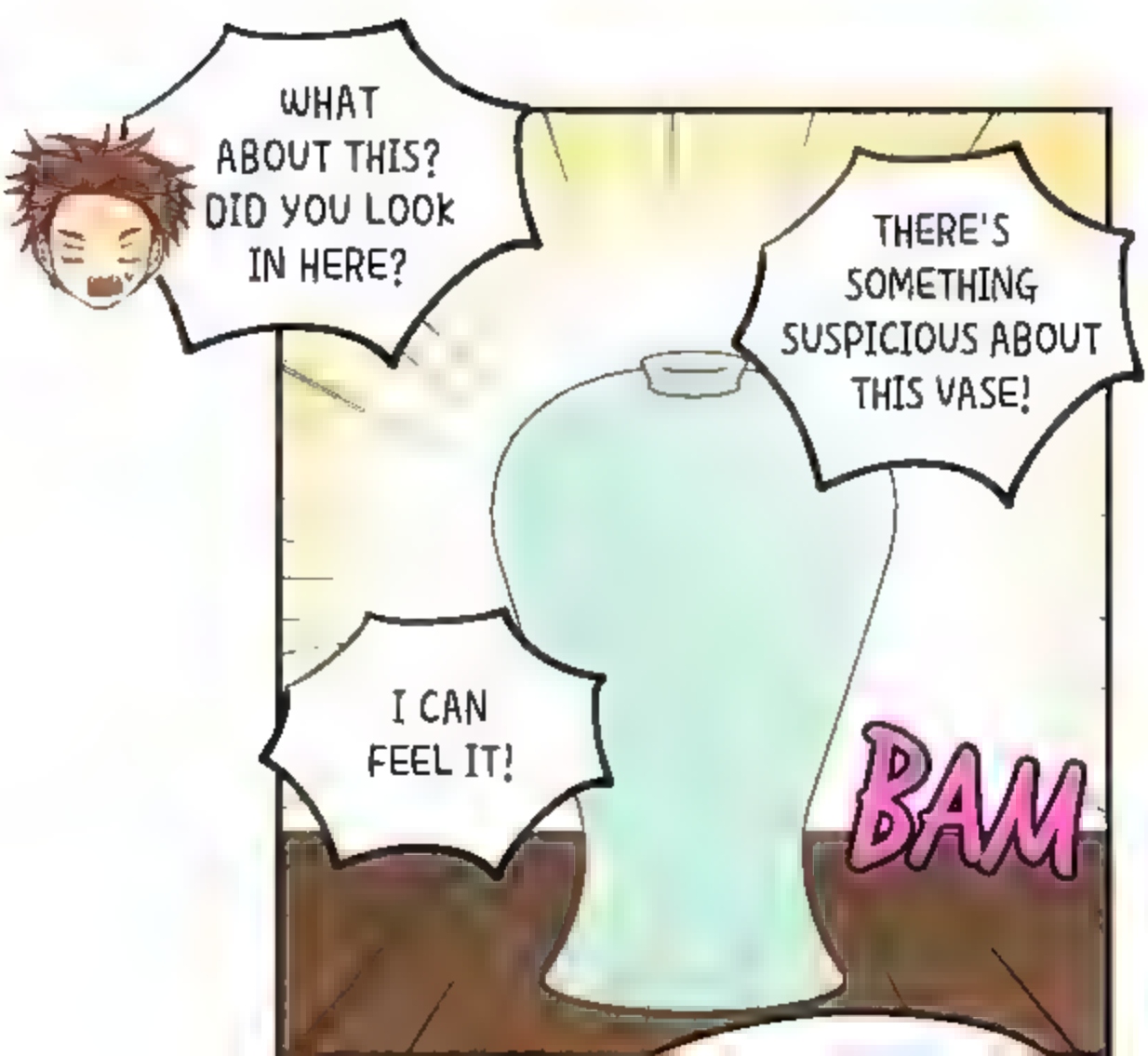
IT'S REALLY NOT HERE.
NOW THAT YOU KNOW THAT, CAN WE PLEASE LEAVE ALREADY?
WE'RE GOING TO HELL

ANYTHING OVER THERE?


DRAG
NOT REALLY...
MOST OF THESE ROOMS ARE EMPTY.

HOW ABOUT OVER THERE?
THE OLD MAN AT MY HOUSE HID HIS SAFE BEHIND A PAINTING OF

A DRAGON!
POINT
THAT'S JUST A WALL.


WHAT ABOUT THIS? DID YOU LOOK IN HERE?
THERE'S SOMETHING SUSPICIOUS ABOUT THIS VASE!
I CAN FEEL IT!
BAM

AREN'T YOU THE ONE WHO COULDN'T IDENTIFY A FAKE VASE INSIDE A MUSEUM?

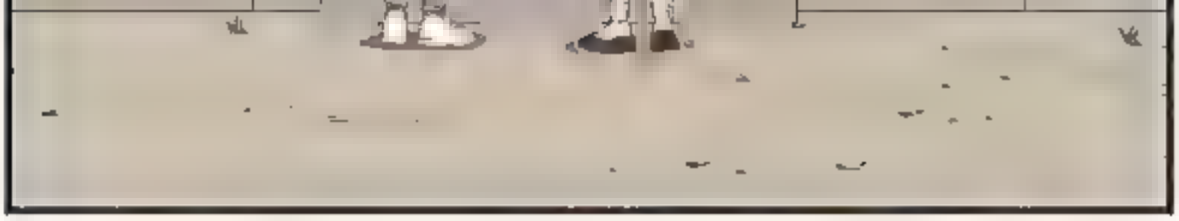
T-THEN WHAT ABOUT THAT?

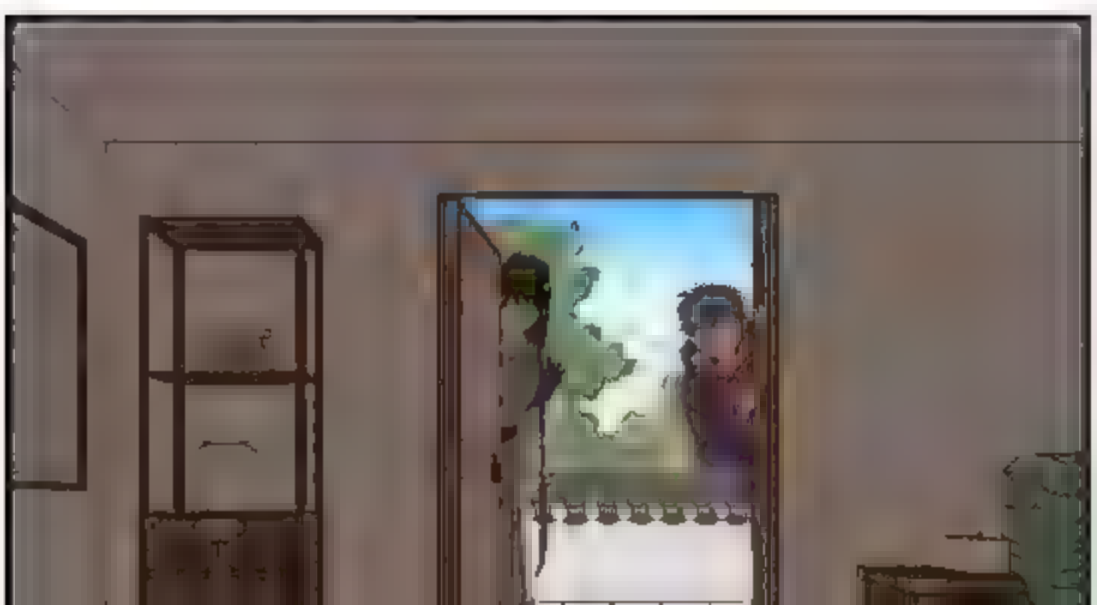
BAAM

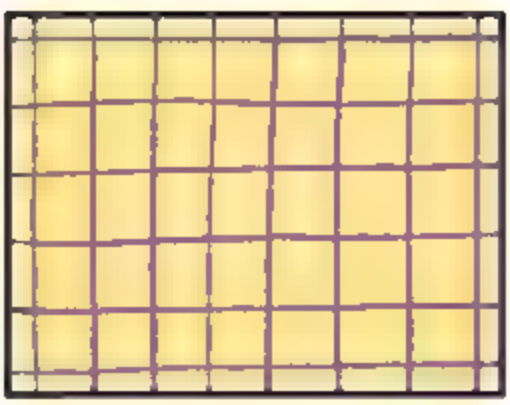
WHAT'S THAT?

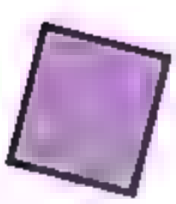
THAT'S A WIFI ROUTER. GUESTS STAY HERE SOMETIMES.

NEXT HOUSE!
DASH
SHOULD WE LOOK OVER HERE?
LET'S DO THAT...
BEING AROUND HIM DRAINS MY ENERGY

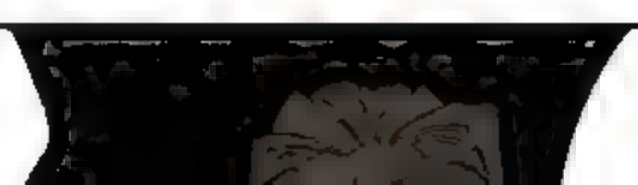




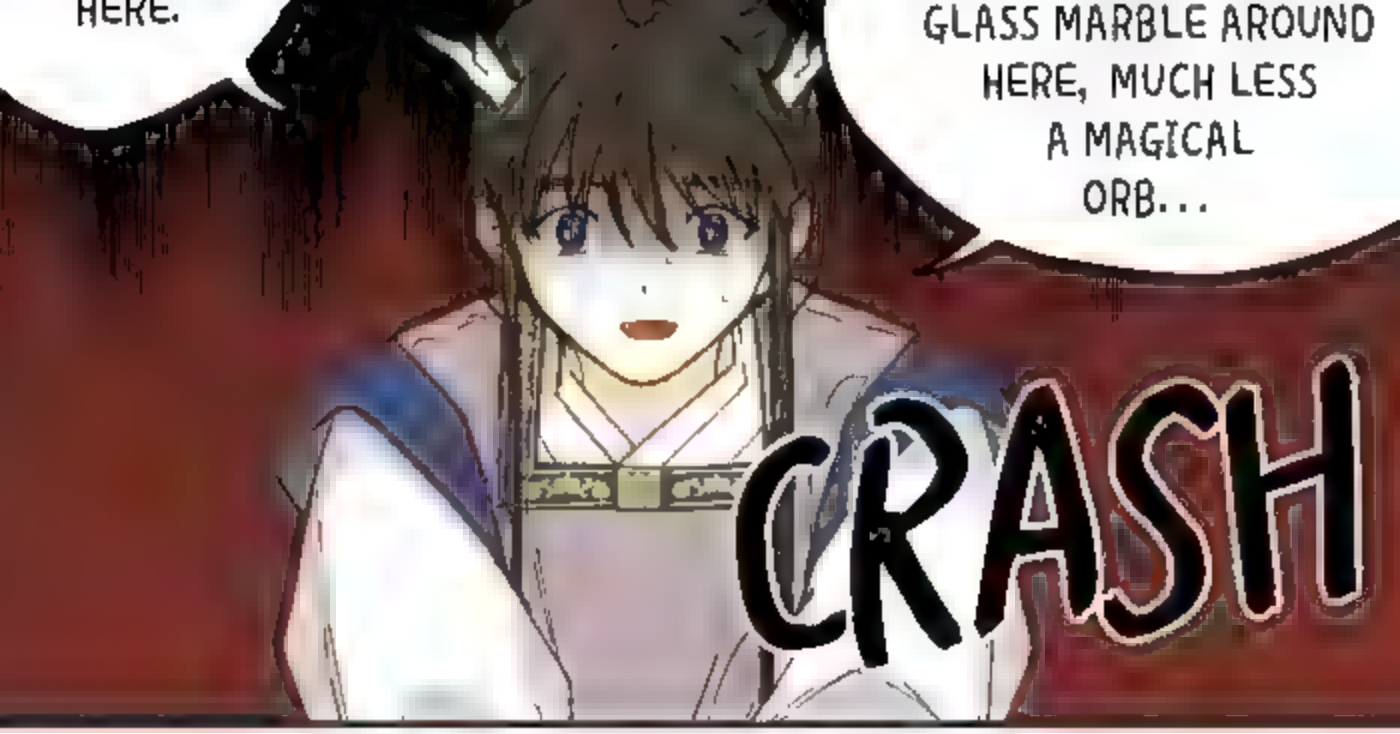


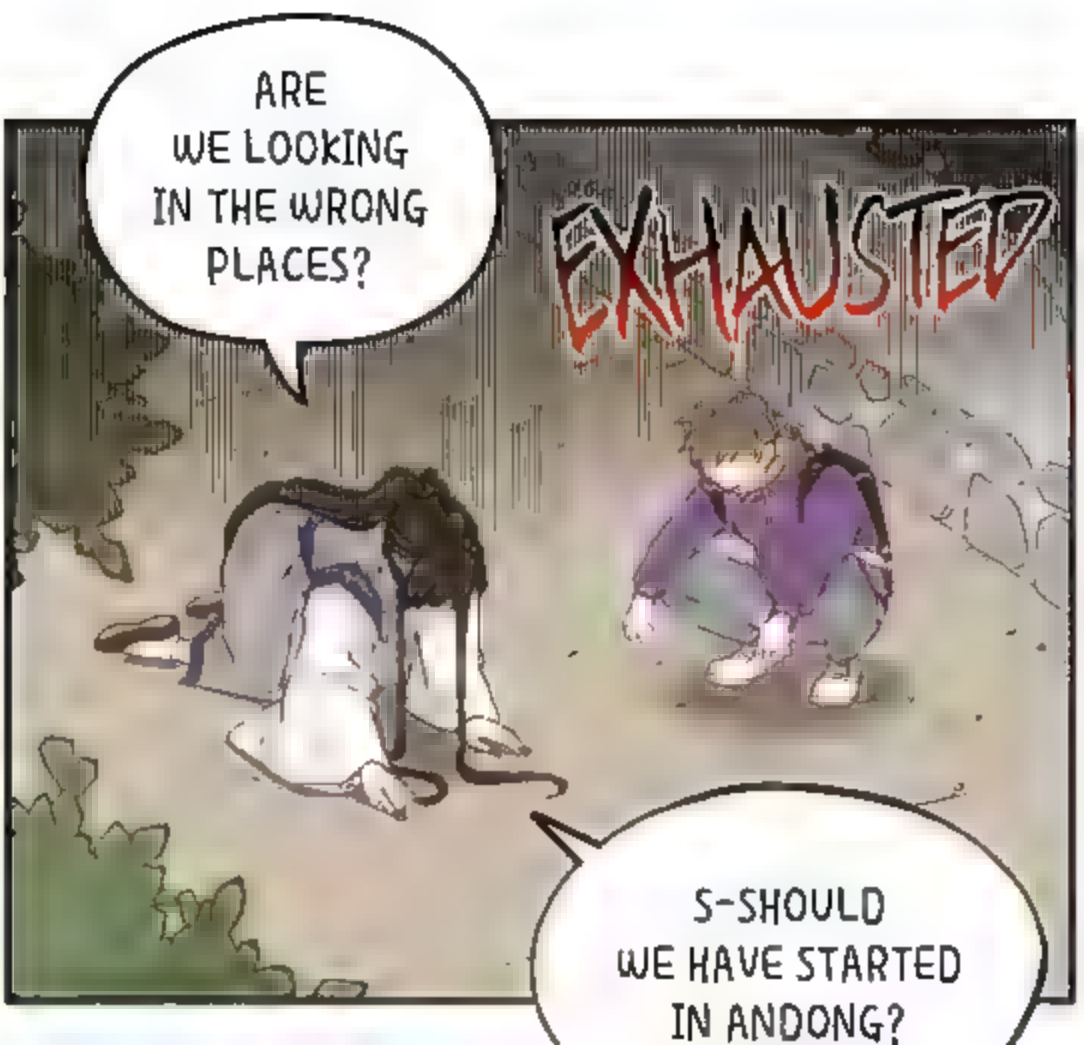


IT'S NOT



I HAVEN'T SEEN A SINGLE


HERE.
GLASS MARBLE AROUND HERE, MUCH LESS A MAGICAL ORB...
CRASH


ARE WE LOOKING IN THE WRONG PLACES?
EXHAUSTED
S-SHOULD WE HAVE STARTED IN ANDONG?

HEY,
DID YOU FIND
ANYTHING?
EXHAUSTED

NO...
YOU?
CAME UP
WITH SQUAT.

CHEW
CHEW
CHEW
CHEW
IT MUST NOT BE IN THIS REGION.

CHEW
CHEW
CHEW
CHEW
CHEW
UGH, STOP EATING!
SHOUT
HOW CAN YOU EAT AT A TIME LIKE THIS?

GETTING ANGRY WON'T SOLVE ANYTHING.
IF IT'S NOT HERE, LET'S JUST EAT SOMETHING AND GO TO ANDONG.
MMMPH--!

MMM...
MMMPH!

...?
WHAT'S WITH THE DRIED PERSIMMONS?
SO RANDOM
YOU GUYS WANT ONE?

PASS
THEY WERE SELLING THEM AT A CAFE OVER THERE.
APPARENTLY, THEY'RE A REGIONAL SPECIALTY.

YOU KNOW, THERE'S THAT ONE FOLK TALE...
WHAT'S THE TIGER? A MASCOT?

OH...
THE ONE ABOUT THE TIGER AND THE PERSIMMONS?
WHAT'S THAT?

THERE'S A STORY ABOUT THIS KID WHO WOULDN'T STOP CRYING, EVEN WHEN HIS PARENTS TOLD HIM THAT THERE WAS A TIGER OUTSIDE.
SO THEY GAVE HIM A DRIED PERSIMMON AND HE STOPPED CRYING,

AND
THE TIGER THAT WAS
REALLY OUTSIDE THEIR
HOUSE THOUGHT THAT DRIED
PERSIMMONS WERE SCARIER
THAN HE WAS, SO HE
RAN AWAY.

WHAT?
I WAS LOOKING THROUGH THE HOUSES EARLIER...
...AND I SAW PAINTINGS OF TIGERS IN EVERY ROOM.

WERE THERE A LOT OF TIGERS IN THIS

REGION?

MAYBE THE PAINTINGS WERE LIKE TALISMANS TO KEEP TIGERS AWAY.

AH...

THOSE ARE DIFFERENT KINDS OF TIGER PAINTINGS.

THEY ARE MEANT TO KEEP EVIL AWAY, THOUGH...

BUT CENTURIES AGO, TIGERS WOULD GO DOWN TO VILLAGES FREQUENTLY.

THERE WERE MANY SCHOLARS IN THIS AREA, SO I'M SURE MANY OF THEM FELL PREY TO TIGERS

WAIT, BY "FELL PREY",
DO YOU MEAN THEY WERE EATEN BY TIGERS...?
GULP
GULP
WHY? ARE SCHOLARS TASTIER?

DO YOU EVER THINK ABOUT THE WORDS THAT COME OUT OF YOUR MOUTH?!
ROAR

THEY WERE PROBABLY EATEN WHILE THEY WERE CROSSING OVER THE MOUNTAINS ON THEIR WAY TO TAKE THEIR EXAMS!
THERE WERE SO MANY INCIDENTS LIKE THIS WITH TIGERS THAT LORD MUHO HAS SEEN ALL SORTS OF THINGS.
LORD MUHO...
AH, THE TIGER MOUNTAIN SPIRIT?

THE RUMORS GOT SO BAD...
?
OH, BROTHER TIGER
...THAT ANYONE WHO SAW LORD MUHO WOULD TREAT HIM LIKE THEIR OLDER BROTHER AND BOW TO HIM.

OH, WAIT! THAT'S THAT ONE STORY...
BROTHER TIGER!

BROTHER TIGER?

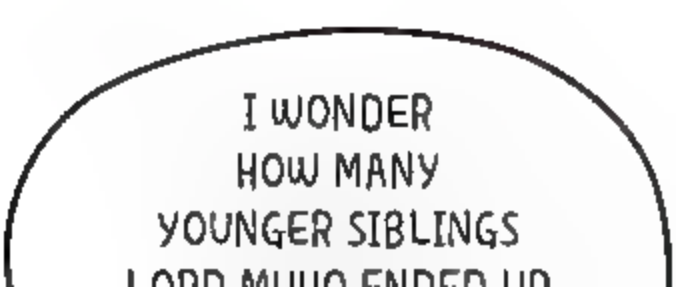
IT'S THAT FOLK TALE ABOUT A HUMAN WHO RAN INTO A TIGER IN THE MOUNTAINS ONE DAY,
EXCITED
AND IN ORDER TO LIVE, HE ACTED LIKE THE TIGER WAS ACTUALLY HIS LONG LOST OLDER BROTHER!
AND THEN HE MADE THE TIGER TREAT HIS PARENTS NICELY AND EVERYTHING
YOU'RE A FOLK TALE MASTER, HUH?
DID YOU READ FAIRY TALES ALL DAY AS A KID

SO THEN, THE TIGER THOUGHT THAT THE HUMAN MOM WAS ACTUALLY HIS REAL MOM,
AND HE WOULD KEEP BRINGING HER THINGS THAT HE'D HUNTED!
WE GET IT, SHUT UP!
TIGERS AND PERSIMMONS, BROTHER TIGER, THE LIST GOES ON AND ON...

ANYWAYS...

LORD MUHO DIDN'T INTEND TO KILL THEM IN THE FIRST PLACE AND JUST WANTED THE HUMAN TO LEAVE...
...BUT HE KEPT CALLING HIM BROTHER AND ACTING LIKE A REAL NUISANCE.

WELL, I GUESS IT'D BE HARD TO KILL ANYONE...
...IF THEY KEPT CALLING YOU BROTHER.


I WONDER HOW MANY YOUNGER SIBLINGS

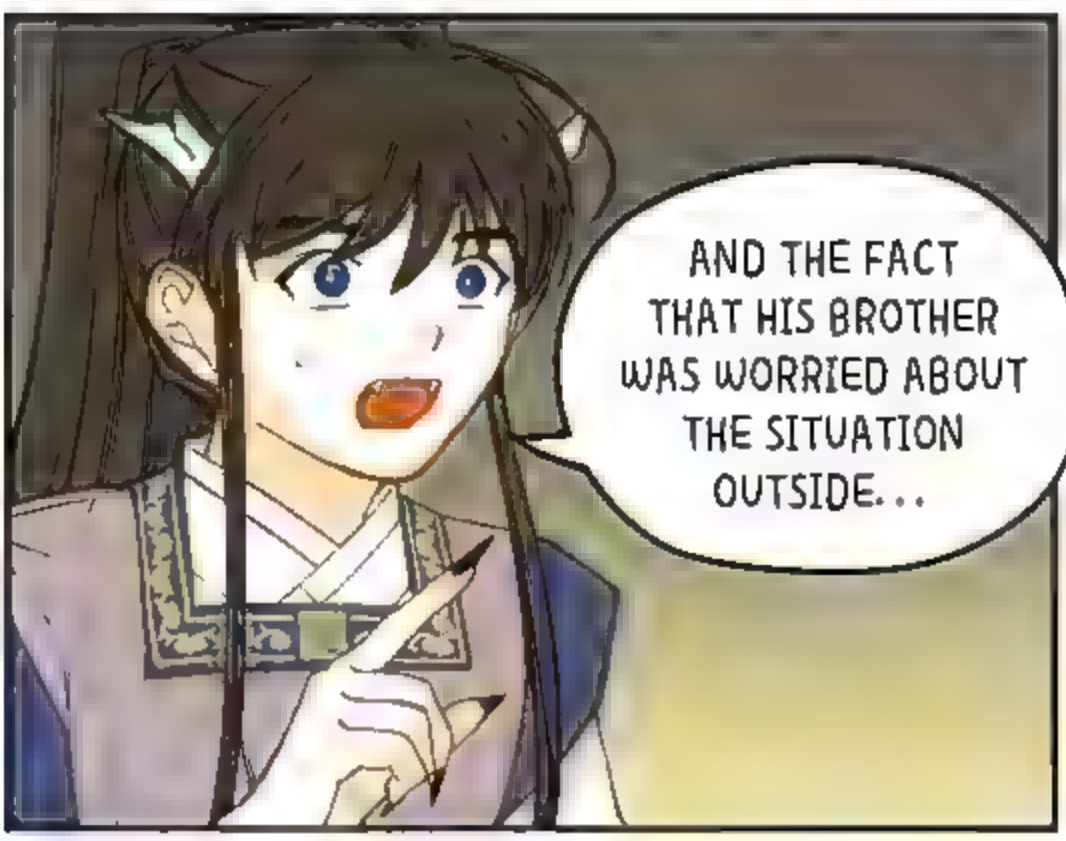
LORD MOMO ENDED UP
WITH BECAUSE
OF THAT.
HAHAHA
GOSH
RIGHT?

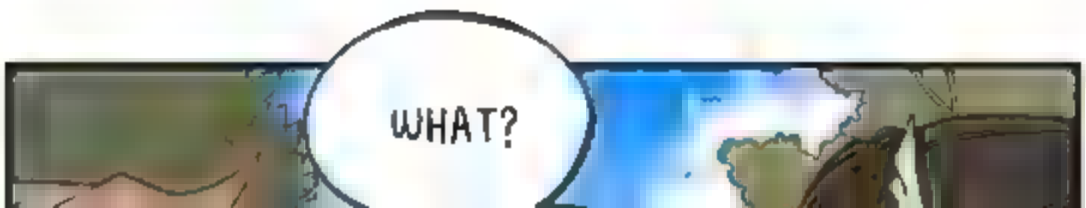
...
...

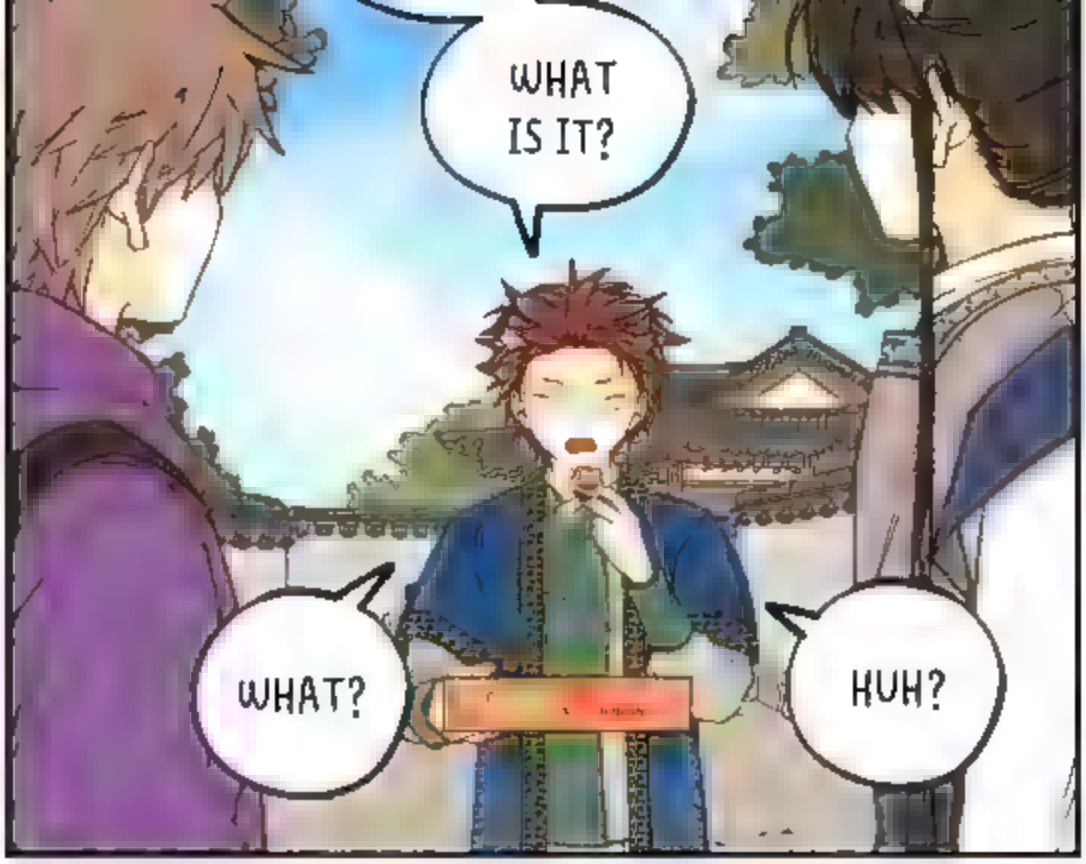
THAT...!
THE...!

THE JOURNALS...

THE FACT
THAT THE NAKDONG
RIVER DRAGON WASN'T
MENTIONED
ONCE...


AND THE FACT
THAT HIS BROTHER
WAS WORRIED ABOUT
THE SITUATION
OUTSIDE...

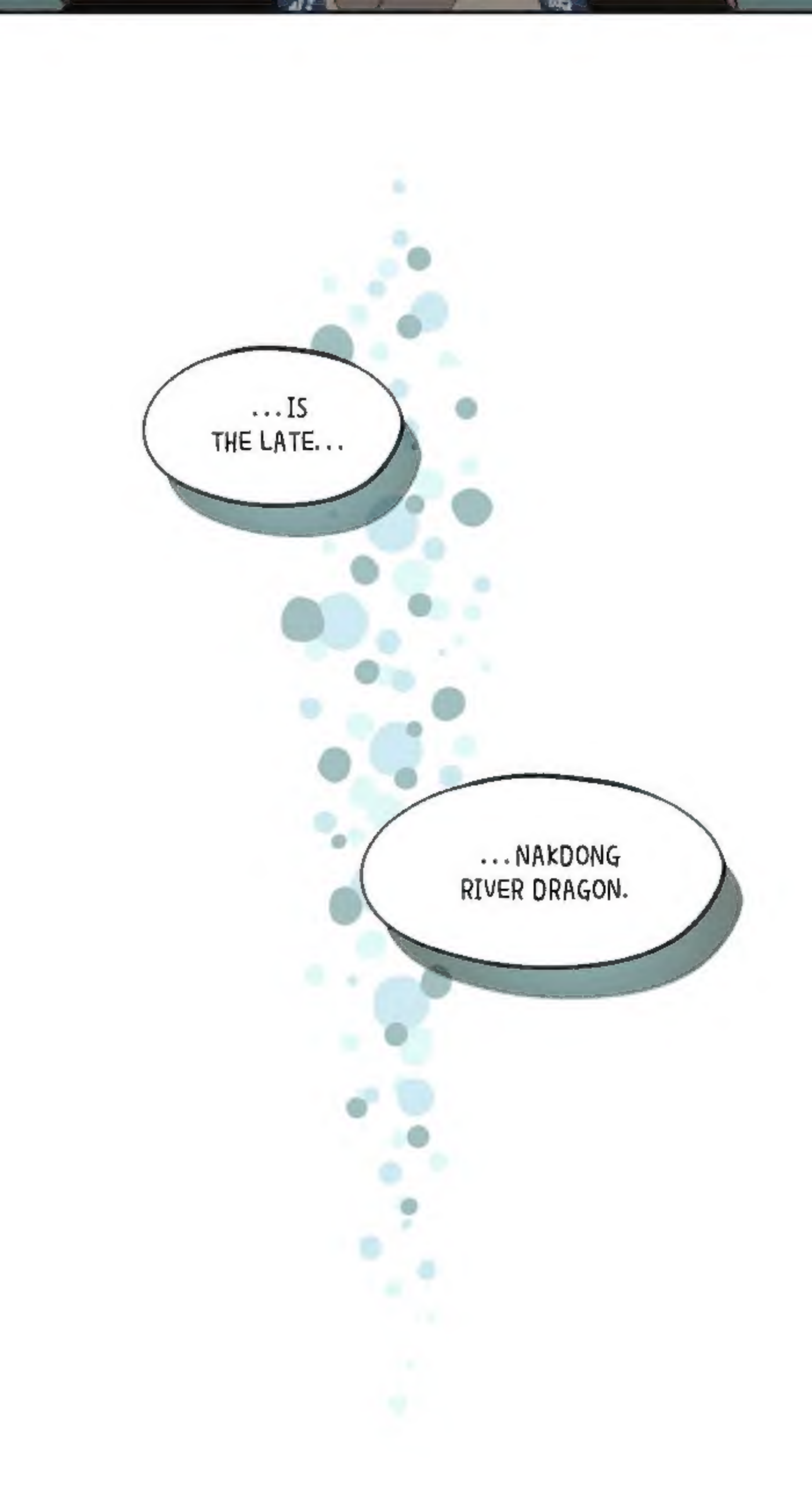

WHAT?


WHAT IS IT?
WHAT?
HUH?

YOU WERE RIGHT, MIRI.
H-HUH...?

THE DRAGON ONLY RESCUED ONE HUMAN.
AND THE ONE...
...THAT THE HUMAN KEPT REFERRING TO AS HIS BROTHER...

THE ONE...
...WHO WAS CONSISTENTLY MENTIONED IN THE HUMAN'S JOURNALS...


...IS
THE LATE...
...NAKDONG
RIVER DRAGON.